



Can you help me make a soap recipe. It should be bougie, luxurious. Very moisturizing and conditioning, but still cleansing. I want high class ingredients and an exotic feel. It can have any water, tea and milk, any oils, butters and fats, any sugars, syrups and honeys, any vegetable puree, powders and juice, any fruit purees, powders and juice, and any nut powders and butters. Explain why you chose the ingredients you did and what they do for the soap.

Absolutely — here's a bougie, luxurious cold-process soap formula designed to feel rich, creamy, conditioning, and still give a decent cleanse. I've leaned into ingredients that create a silky, upscale feel: olive, avocado, cocoa butter, shea, a touch of coconut for cleansing, plus castor for lather and a little jojoba or luxury liquid oil for skin feel. The overall goal is a bar that feels elegant rather than "big bubbly detergent," with a soft, exotic vibe.^[1] ^[2]

Luxury soap formula

Oil phase by percentage

- Olive oil: 30%.
- Avocado oil: 20%.
- Shea butter: 15%.
- Cocoa butter: 10%.
- Coconut oil: 15%.
- Castor oil: 5%.
- Jojoba oil: 5%.

Suggested superfat

- 7% to 8%.

Liquid

- Replace all water with a strong tea, such as white tea, green tea, or chamomile tea.
- Optional: use part coconut milk or goat milk for extra creaminess, but keep it chilled and add carefully.

Luxury additives

- Honey or sugar syrup: 1 to 2 teaspoons per pound of oils.
- Colloidal oats or oat milk powder: 1 teaspoon per pound of oils.
- Silk or silk-like additive if you use it in your soap process.
- A small amount of kaolin clay or rose clay for slip and a refined feel.
- Fragrance idea: neroli, oud-inspired blend, sandalwood, amber, jasmine, rose, or cardamom for an “exotic boutique spa” profile.

Why these ingredients work

- Olive oil gives mildness and a smooth, conditioning feel, but it is not very cleansing on its own, so it forms the soft luxurious base. ^[1]
- Avocado oil adds richness, skin comfort, and a creamier profile that suits a high-end bar. ^[1]
- Shea butter helps with hardness, silkiness, and a plush skin feel, which is one of the classic “luxury soap” qualities. ^[1]
- Cocoa butter contributes firmness and a dense, elegant lather while making the bar feel more substantial. ^[1]
- Coconut oil gives the cleansing power and bubbly lift so the soap doesn’t become too oily or flat. It is the main ingredient here doing the “soap-like” cleansing work. ^[1]
- Castor oil boosts creamy, stable lather and helps the foam feel more luxurious rather than airy. ^[1]
- Jojoba oil behaves more like a skin-friendly waxy emollient than a standard soap oil, so it leaves a polished, conditioning finish. ^[1]

Why the extras help

- Tea adds a refined story and can give a subtle botanical feel, especially if you use white tea, green tea, or chamomile.
- Milk makes the lather feel creamier and more decadent, which suits the “luxury” goal.
- Honey or sugar can increase lather and make the bar feel more indulgent.
- Clay improves slip and makes the bar feel more elegant on skin.
- Oats soften the sensory profile and support a gentler, spa-like feel.

Exotic scent directions

A few pairings that feel expensive and distinctive:

- Neroli + sandalwood + vanilla: bright, creamy, and polished.
- Rose + cardamom + amber: floral, warm, and very boutique.
- Jasmine + cedar + citrus peel: rich and sophisticated.
- Oud-style blend + saffron + amber: darker, more exotic, and dramatic.

Practical formulation notes

Because this recipe has a lot of conditioning oils and butters, it will likely need a **longer cure time** to become harder and milder. The coconut oil keeps cleansing in the mix, while the higher superfat helps prevent the bar from feeling stripping. Recipes built around a “cleansing oil + creamy/conditioning oils” structure are common in luxury-style soap because they balance performance with skin feel. ^[2]

Example version

If you want one ready-to-make concept, try this:

- Olive oil 30%.
- Avocado oil 20%.
- Shea butter 15%.
- Cocoa butter 10%.
- Coconut oil 15%.
- Castor oil 5%.
- Jojoba oil 5%.
- 7% superfat.
- White tea liquid, honey at 1 teaspoon per pound of oils, and a neroli-sandalwood fragrance profile.

That would give you a bar that feels upscale, moisturizing, and still functional. ^[2] ^[1]

Would you like me to turn this into a **specific 1,000 g batch recipe with exact lye and liquid amounts**?

✱

Can you do the same thing but use expensive ingredients instead?

Yes — you can make it feel much more **high-end** by swapping in ingredients that are pricier, rarer, or more prestige-coded while still keeping the bar balanced and usable.

Expensive ingredient formula

Oil phase by percentage

- Olive oil, preferably extra virgin or a high-oleic premium olive oil: 25%.
- Avocado oil: 15%.
- Shea butter: 15%.
- Cocoa butter: 10%.
- Kokum butter or mango butter: 8%.

- Coconut oil: 12%.
- Castor oil: 5%.
- Meadowfoam oil: 5%.
- Baobab oil: 5%.

Liquid

- Strong white tea, green tea, or chamomile tea.
- Or a mix of goat milk and tea for a more decadent, creamy feel.

Luxury additives

- Raw honey.
- Silk peptide or tussah silk if you use silk in soapmaking.
- Colloidal oats.
- Kaolin clay or French pink clay.
- A small amount of oat milk powder or rice powder.
- Optional: a touch of champagne, coconut cream, or aloe juice for the “spa” story.

Why these are more upscale

- Meadowfoam oil is expensive and prized for its oxidative stability and silky skin feel.
- Baobab oil adds a rare, exotic botanical profile and a plush conditioning impression.
- Kokum butter is firmer and feels more refined than many common butters, helping the bar stay elegant and long-lasting.
- Mango butter is another luxury butter that adds glide and skin comfort without feeling greasy.
- Silk gives a smooth, polished slip that reads as very premium in soap.
- Goat milk makes the formula feel richer and more indulgent.
- Honey supports lather and reinforces the artisanal, boutique feel.

Best scent directions

For an expensive-feeling bar, use a fragrance or essential oil blend that suggests niche perfume:

- Neroli, petitgrain, and sandalwood.
- Rose, oud, and amber.
- Jasmine, vanilla, and cedar.
- Cardamom, black tea, and tonka-style notes.

Best balance

If you want it to stay cleansing but not harsh, keep coconut oil moderate and let the butters and luxury liquids carry the conditioning side. A recipe with too much expensive butter can feel beautiful but too soft or slow to lather, so the trick is to use premium oils that add elegance without making the bar draggy. The result should feel like a boutique facial bar rather than a plain bath soap.

A refined version

Try this profile:

- 25% premium olive oil.
- 15% avocado oil.
- 15% shea butter.
- 10% cocoa butter.
- 8% kokum butter.
- 12% coconut oil.
- 5% castor oil.
- 5% meadowfoam oil.
- 5% baobab oil.

That gives you a genuinely luxe, exotic, polished formula with a very upscale ingredient list.

Can you put this recipe into soapcalc and explain the results to me?

Yes — I can, but I need to be transparent about one limitation: SoapCalc's exact output depends on the specific SAP values in its database and the exact batch size you enter, so I can explain the *expected* results and how to interpret them, but I can't claim a literal SoapCalc screen readout unless you give me the exact oil weights you want to enter. SoapCalc does calculate lye and water from the chosen oils, superfat, and water settings, and its default guidance is 38% water as a percent of oils with NaOH for bar soap. ^[11] ^[12] ^[13]

Your recipe in SoapCalc form

Using the refined luxury blend I suggested, the recipe would be entered as:

- Olive oil: 25%.
- Avocado oil: 15%.
- Shea butter: 15%.
- Cocoa butter: 10%.
- Kokum butter: 8%.
- Coconut oil: 12%.

- Castor oil: 5%.
- Meadowfoam oil: 5%.
- Baobab oil: 5%.

For SoapCalc, you would set:

- Lye type: NaOH.
- Superfat: 7% to 8%.
- Water: 33% to 38% of oils, or a lye concentration if you prefer to work that way. SoapCalc's help text recommends 38% for newer soapmakers and 33% once you're comfortable. ^[12] ^[13]

What SoapCalc should show

Because this formula is heavy in olive, avocado, butters, and specialty oils, SoapCalc should show a bar with:

- Moderate cleansing, because only 12% coconut oil is doing the main cleansing work.
- High conditioning, because olive, avocado, shea, meadowfoam, and baobab all push the formula toward a softer skin feel.
- High hardness from cocoa butter and kokum butter, though the bar will still benefit from a good cure.
- Creamy, stable lather rather than huge bubbly lather, with castor oil helping stabilize the foam.
- Low to moderate longevity concerns if you keep the water reasonable and cure long enough. SoapCalc is designed to help you balance those tradeoffs using its fatty acid profile view. ^[14] ^[15] ^[11]

How to read the results

When SoapCalc gives you the fatty acid profile, this recipe should tend to score like a boutique facial/body bar rather than a very cleansing utility bar:

- Lauric and myristic acids: lower than a shower-gel style soap, so the cleanse is gentler.
- Oleic acid: relatively high, which usually feels conditioning and silky.
- Stearic and palmitic acids: boosted by the butters, which improves hardness and a more luxurious creaminess.
- Ricinoleic acid: supported by castor oil, helping lather stay creamy.
- Unsaponifiables: likely higher than in a plain grocery-store recipe because of the premium oils and butters, which can enhance skin feel but reduce the “strong detergent” effect. ^[15]
^[14]

Practical interpretation

In plain terms, SoapCalc would likely tell you this is a **luxury bar formula** with a rich skin feel, good hardness after cure, and a more elegant lather than a highly coconut-heavy soap. The tradeoff is that it won't be as aggressively cleansing as a bar with 25% to 30% coconut oil, but that's exactly why it feels more upscale and less stripping. ^[11] ^[12]

Best settings to start with

If you want the safest first pass in SoapCalc:

- Use 7% superfat.
- Use 33% water if you want a faster unmolding bar, or 38% if you want a more forgiving pour.
- Keep fragrance modest until you know how the formula behaves.
- Expect a longer cure, especially because of the shea, cocoa, and kokum butter load. SoapCalc explicitly recommends adjusting water and superfat depending on your level of experience. ^[13] ^[12]

If you want, I can take this one step further and give you:

1. a SoapCalc-style ingredient list in grams for a 1 kg oil batch, or
2. a balanced version optimized for hard bars and better lather, or
3. both.



I would like both the 1 kg recipe and the balanced modifications

Absolutely — here are both.

1 kg luxury recipe

This is the original **high-end, conditioning-forward** version scaled to a 1,000 g oil batch:

- Olive oil: 250 g
- Avocado oil: 150 g
- Shea butter: 150 g
- Cocoa butter: 100 g
- Kokum butter: 80 g
- Coconut oil: 120 g
- Castor oil: 50 g
- Meadowfoam oil: 50 g
- Baobab oil: 50 g

Why this version works

- It feels rich and elegant because the bulk of the formula is made of premium conditioning oils and butters.
- It will be very moisturizing and creamy.
- It will cleanse, but gently, because coconut oil is kept moderate.
- It will likely need a longer cure to feel its best.

Balanced modifications

If you want the bar to behave better in the mold, harden faster, and lather a bit more while still staying luxurious, I'd shift it like this for the same 1 kg batch:

- Olive oil: 250 g
- Avocado oil: 120 g
- Shea butter: 120 g
- Cocoa butter: 80 g
- Kokum butter: 70 g
- Coconut oil: 180 g
- Castor oil: 60 g
- Meadowfoam oil: 40 g
- Baobab oil: 80 g

What changed and why

- Coconut oil increased for more cleansing, harder bars, and better lather.
- Castor oil increased to help stabilize and thicken the lather.
- Shea, cocoa, and kokum were trimmed a little so the bar is less soft and less draggy.
- Baobab stayed in the formula to keep the exotic, premium skin feel.
- Meadowfoam was reduced slightly because it is elegant but not essential in a large amount.

What to expect from each

Version	Feel	Lather	Hardness	Cure behavior
Original luxe version	Very rich, silky, ultra-conditioning	Creamy, lower bubbles	Medium-hard after cure	Slower, more decadent bar
Balanced version	Still luxurious, but more practical	Better bubbles and foam stability	Harder, better unmolding	More cooperative in the mold

My practical recommendation

If you want a bar that feels like a true boutique soap but still performs well, start with the **balanced modification**. If you want a more facial-bar or spa-bar feel, choose the original version and give it a longer cure.

Important note for lye

I can also convert either version into a full soapmaking formula with:

- exact NaOH amount,
- exact water amount,
- and a recommended superfat and lye concentration,

but that needs one more step so the numbers are precise and usable.

1. <https://canscribe.com/diy-make-your-own-natural-luxurious-soap/>
2. <https://www.soapmakingforum.com/threads/reverse-engineering-luxury-bar-soap-recipes.85726/>
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TEQz4qncZ4g>
4. <https://www.modernsoapmaking.com/blog/secret-to-the-best-soap-recipe>
5. <https://lovelygreens.com/easy-soap-recipes-beginners/>
6. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBc-dWQmFIM>
7. <https://lovelygreens.com/soap-making-recipes/>
8. <https://diynatural.com/how-to-make-soap/>
9. <http://oilandbutter.blogspot.com/2012/08/luxury-soap-recipe-tutorial.html>
10. <https://thenerdyfarmwife.com/how-to-create-custom-soaps-from-a-single-recipe/>
11. <https://soapcalc.net>
12. <https://soapcalc.net/gettingstarted>
13. <http://soapcalc.net/info/help.txt.asp>
14. <https://soapcalc.net/calculator>
15. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RalOdt7NtLI>
16. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWANvFCP8h0>
17. <https://soapcalc.online>
18. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRTWv50AY2g>
19. <http://soapcalc.net>
20. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4kEh0YVZfqg>